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Application No. 10/009,800
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CLAIM SUMMARY DOCUMENT:

[Claims 1-21 (Canceled)]

1. Claim 22 (New) An electrical switching device comprising:
a microrelay switch which is arranged in a current path and has microrelay cells
connected in series as a voltage divider and connected in parallel as a current divider,
having a current sensor which detects ^a the current flowing in the current path;
an evaluation device for receiving and evaluating the current signals detected by the
current sensor and for forming a tripping signal, which acts on the microrelay switch, if
the current being carried in the current path exceeds a threshold value; and
a short-circuit current limiter arranged in the current path such that the short-circuit
current limiter is connected in series with the microrelay switch; wherein
the switching device is designed such that the microrelay switch opens in response
to the tripping signal for small overcurrents that are greater than the threshold value, and,
in the event of large overcurrents, the short-circuit current limiter limits these overcurrents
to currents which can be interrupted by the microrelay switch.

2. Claim 23 (New) The electrical switching device as claimed in
claim 22, wherein the evaluation device causes the microrelay switch to respond with a
short time delay as a function of the magnitude of any overcurrent.

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3.
Claim 24 (New) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the short-circuit current limiter is a fuse link.

4.
Claim 25 (New) The switching device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the short-circuit current limit can be uploaded electrically, and the evaluation device is designed to transmit a second tripping signal to the short-circuit current limiter in the event of large overcurrents.

5.
Claim 26 (New) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the short-circuit current limiter is a power breaker.

6.
Claim 27 (New) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the short-circuit current limiter is a PTC thermistor.

7.
Claim 28 (New) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 27, wherein the PTC thermistor contains a PTC polymer material.

8.
Claim 29 (New) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 27, wherein the PTC thermistor contains a PTC metal material.

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4.
Claim 35 (New) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the microrelay switch, the evaluation device and, possibly, the Hall sensor or sensors are each integrated as chips on a circuit board.

5.
Claim 36 (New) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the microrelay switch and the evaluation device are integrated on one chip.

6.
Claim 37 (New) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 22, wherein an electronic response monitoring device is integrated, with the microrelay switch, on one chip.

7.
Claim 38 (New) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 22, wherein a timer circuit is integrated, with the microrelay switch, on one chip.

8.
Claim 39 (New) An electric motor switching and protection system having an electrical switching device as claimed in claim 22.